

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes of the May 8, 2007 Regular Meeting

The May 8, 2007 Regular Meeting of the Union Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM.

The notice of meeting as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier-News satisfied the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, and was also posted in the Municipal Building, on the Union Township website and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

- I. **Roll call:** Present: Bob Beylickjian, Alan Ford, Brian Kirkpatrick, Robert Nargi, Stephen Hurford.
Absent: Sandy Stiger
Others: Christine Altomari (Princeton Hydro), Kathy Hale (New Jersey Water Supply Authority), Rick Steffey (Hunterdon County Planning Department), Bruce Studeier (Franklin Township Environmental Commission), Steve Balzano (NJ Highlands Commission), Chris Roth (NJ Highlands Commission)
Public: Frank Mazza, Matt Severino, Bill Bischoff, Michelle McBride, Patricia Dzuibek, Steve Jordan, Karen Sferra, Barbara Hartsell
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the minutes from the April 10, 2007 meeting was moved by Mr. Kirkpatrick, seconded by Mr. Beylickjian, and approved by 4-0 vote, with Mr. Hurford abstaining.
- III. **Presentations:**
 1. Christine Altomari, Princeton Hydro, gave a presentation of the project plan funded by the 319 grant for the Sidney Brook watershed. The presentation included a discussion of the requirement for in-kind services in the amount of \$32,000 that must be provided by the Township and volunteers to meet the requirements of the grant.
 2. Kathy Hale, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, gave a presentation on the stream visual assessment process that will be used for the Sidney brook project.
 3. Steve Balzano, New Jersey Highlands Commission, gave a presentation on the Highlands Act and the draft Regional Master Plan, and how this plan may impact Union Township, and some of the options available to the Township. Mr. Balzano responded to a number of questions from the public and UTEC members. Mr. Balzano recommended that we wait until study grant funds are available when the RMP is adopted before expending Township monies on how to implement the various portions of the Act.
- IV. **Old Business:**
 1. Mr. Nargi reported that the stream clean-up was held. Ms. Stiger will report at the next meeting.
 2. Mr. Nargi reported that the Joint Management Agreement with the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was still under review.
 3. Mr. Nargi provided forms for the Sidney Brook 319 grant in-kind services to UTEC members. These forms should be completed on a quarterly basis and returned to Mr. Nargi, who will forward them to Princeton Hydro for compilation. It was noted that tonight's meeting should be included on the sheet for 45 minutes.
- V. **Correspondence:** None
- VI. **New Business:** None
- VII. **Chairman's Report:**
 1. Mr. Nargi reported on the status of the newsletter. Mr. Nargi has received several articles and should release the newsletter in the next week or so

2. Mr. Nargi reported on a meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transportation and Mr. Mazza concerning the extension of the Frontage Road (south side of Route 78) through to the area of exit 15. Issues discussed included the possible development of property in Clinton Township and the potential for additional traffic into Union Township. The township was asked to agree to the extension, but has not done so. Also discussed was the configuration of exit 13 westbound with respect to the speed of vehicles, safety concerns and the presence of the Toll Brothers development. Another issue discussed concerned trucks leaving Route 78 at exit 12 eastbound, and the series of wide turns required to go east on Route 173 toward the truck stops. Lastly, the problem of vehicles queuing on the exit 12 deceleration lane was noted.
3. Mr. Nargi reported the need to look at the several residential properties on town-owned properties and the need to maintain, manage, and rent these properties. A work group consisting of Mr. Nargi, Mr. Beylickjian and Mr. Ford will look at these issues and develop a management plan. .

VIII. **Committee Reports:**

Equestrian Trails: Mr. Beylickjian reported that he has been named to the board of the Pittstown Trail Association and would be working through that body to develop locations for posting of safety signage.

Planning Board:

1. Mr. Kirkpatrick reported that he had not yet received materials he had requested on Renaissance from the EIS checklist, and thus had not completed his review.
2. Mr. Kirkpatrick also reported that the Planning Board had granted a variance for a second driveway that would shorten access to the applicant's property.
3. Mr. Kirkpatrick also reported that a potential applicant came to the Planning Board to determine if a variance would be required to build a driveway and a new house on an approximately 80 acre property on Baptist Church Road. Discussion centered on the fact that the property had access to a public road as required but would actually access the proposed dwelling from a private road. The prospective applicant wanted to access the house site from the private road instead of the public road because access from the public road would require crossing of a C-1 stream. The Planning Board suggested a review by the Planner.
4. Mr. Kirkpatrick presented a revised Impact Statement checklist and moved that it be forwarded to the Planning Board with the recommendation that the checklist be furnished to all applicants. Mr. Ford seconded, and the motion was approved by all members present. A copy of the checklist is attached.

IX. **Financial Reports:** None

X. **Hearing of Citizens:** None

XI. **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Commission will be Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the municipal building.

XII. **Adjournment:**

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kirkpatrick made the motion and Mr. Beylickjian seconded. All members present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Ford, Secretary